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**Subject:** Flint Readout 04/18/16

#### WATCH JOHN OLIVER DESCRIBE THE DANGERS OF LEAD

By Jason Lederman, Popular Science 04/18/16 1:30 PM [video clip]

John Oliver isn't afraid to tackle big issues facing society on his HBO show Last Week Tonight, including encryption, abortion laws, and daily fantasy sports. On his latest episode, which aired last night, Oliver addresses how congressional spending on programs that remove lead have decreased over the last decades, and touches on many points that Popular Science has also covered, including how much lead is too much and how the water in Flint, Michigan could permanently affect children.

John Oliver Brought Out Sesame Street's Elmo to Explain How We Can Stop Poisoning Our

## Children

By Forrest Wickman, SLATE 04/18/16 11:58 AM

As we've said many times before, John Oliver specializes in taking topics that might initially seem boring, arcane, or foreign and covering them in a way that's at once informative and surprisingly entertaining. You wouldn't think that something that poisons our children would be one of those topics—after all, it's poisoning our children! And lead poisoning has been with us for a long time. But on Sunday's Last Week Tonight, Oliver took 18 minutes to explain why our nation's lead problem is much bigger than Flint, Michigan. As Slate itself has pointed out, the problem isn't just lead pipes but lead paint (yes, still), lead toys, and more.

## Watch John Oliver Explain the Lead Contamination Problem

By Fortune 04/18/16 11:14 AM

Video clip of John Oliver's Last Week Tonight

## John Oliver Breaks Down Flint Water Crisis, Brings Out 'Sesame Street' To Teach About Lead Poisoning [VIDEO]

By Alex Garofalo, International Business Times 04/18/16 10:37 AM [video clip]

The Michigan city of Flint became a national symbol of environmental disaster when it was revealed that thousands of residents had been exposed to dangerous levels of lead in the city's drinking water. And according to John Oliver, the problem extends well beyond Flint. Oliver, the host of HBO's "Last Week Tonight," took a closer look Sunday at how state and local officials ignored multiple warning signs that lead had seeped into the water system.

## HBO's John Oliver weighs in on Flint water crisis, lead

By Charles E. Ramirez, Detroit News 04/18/16 10:27 AM [video clip]

Satirist John Oliver this weekend weighed in on Flint's water crisis and the dangers of lead in American homes. The bespectacled British host of the HBO weekly TV show, "Last Week Tonight with John Oliver," got some help from Elmo and the other puppets who live on Sesame Street. His show airs at 11 p.m. on Sundays.

## Watch John Oliver, 'Sesame Street' Sing About Lead Poisoning

By Ryan Reed, Rolling Stone 04/18/16

"There is no safe level of lead," John Oliver warned on Sunday's Last Week Tonight. "It's one of those things so dangerous you shouldn't even let a little bit inside you, much like heroin or Jeremy Piven." The host took a deep dive on this serious issue, examining the dangers of lead found in America's water supply (in both Flint, Michigan and beyond) and homes with paint dust.

## John Oliver and 'Sesame Street' teach us that lead poisoning is still a huge problem

By Andrea Romano, Mashable 04/18/16 10:00 AM [video clip]

The disastrous events in Flint, Michigan have brought different social and economic issues to light, one of which is the regulation of lead in water systems and housing developments. On Last Week Tonight, John Oliver shows that, according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, lead and lead-based paint is present in 2,144,000 homes where children under the age of six live. The problem is (and has been) so prevalent that Sesame Street produced a PSA segment about it in 1996.

## John Oliver and the Sesame Street Gang Talk About Lead Poisoning

By Sarene Leeds, Wall Street Journal 04/18/16 10:00 AM [video clip]

Did you know that back in 1996, "Sesame Street" produced a special video intended to teach children about lead-poisoning prevention? It starred Elmo, Rosita, Oscar the Grouch – and a Muppet singing group called "The Lead Police" (whose members bore a strange resemblance to Sting, Stewart Copeland and Andy Summers). Twenty years later, the lead issue continues to be a problem throughout the United States – and not just due to the recent water catastrophe in Flint, Mich. So for his main story on Sunday's "Last Week Tonight," John Oliver gathered up the same "Sesame Street" Muppets from the 1996 video to re-address the dangers of lead. (An easy task considering both "LWT" and "Sesame Street" are HBO programs now.)

## JOHN OLIVER EXPLAINS HOW LEAD POISONING GOES FAR BEYOND FLINT

By Ryan Bort, Newsweek 04/18/16 9:39 AM [video clip]

America was reintroduced to the issue of lead poisoning earlier this year when it was revealed that Flint, Michigan's toxic water system was infecting—and even killing—the city's children. A

disgusted nation rallied in support of the working-class town, and many—including several politicians—called for Michigan Governor Rick Snyder to resign. But as John Oliver pointed out on Sunday's episode of Last Week Tonight, lead poisoning goes far beyond Flint, and so does the negligence of lawmakers. Flint's was only one of an estimated 2,000 contaminated water systems spanning all 50 states, and the country contains an estimated 7.3 million lead service lines.

#### John Oliver heads to Sesame Street for a lead poisoning wake-up call

By Nick Maslow, Entertainment Weekly 04/18/16 [video clip]

John Oliver took lawmakers to task on the realities of lead poisoning Sunday, and he did it with the help of your favorite Sesame Street characters. It all began in usual fashion on HBO's Last Week Tonight, with the host discussing the water crisis that has erupted in Flint, Michigan. "Flint has become a city whose very name evokes disaster. Like Benghazi or Wako or Smurf Village," he said, later pointing out how nearly 100,000 residents received contaminated water from the Flint River starting in 2014 after the city's water source was switched.

#### John Oliver joins with Elmo and Oscar the Grouch to explain the politics of lead poisoning

By Aaron Blake, Washington Post 04/18/16 8:14 AM [video clip]

Many Americans are only now becoming familiar with the tolls of lead poisoning, with the tragedy of Flint, Mich., playing out in congressional hearings and on nightly newscasts. But the political fight over funding to fight lead poisoning dates back decades, and lead in drinking water is only the most timely of causes —the others big ones being lead paint and lead in gasoline. Below, comedian John Oliver goes over the social and economic costs of lead poisoning and makes the case that politicians have been shortchanging this effort for years.

#### It's so much worse than Flint: John Oliver expose blows the doors off another horrific lead scandal

By Salon 04/18/16 8:04 AM [video clip]

"Last Week Tonight" host John Oliver last night centered his main segment on lead — as in the element that's effectively poisoned the drinking water in Flint, Michigan. "Unfortunately, the problem is not just in Flint," Oliver explained, citing a USA Today Network report that "found lead contamination in almost 2,000 additional water systems spanning all 50 states."

## John Oliver Explains The Lead Crisis... With A 'Sesame Street' Song

By Ed Mazza Huffington Post 04/18/16 5:02 AM [video clip]

The lead crisis in Flint, Michigan was “a perfect storm of incompetence from start to finish,” according to John Oliver on HBO’s “Last Week Tonight.” But the problem isn’t limited to Flint: A USA Today report found lead in almost 2,000 water systems spanning all 50 states.

## Watch John Oliver and Sesame Street Sing About Lead Poisoning on Last Week Tonight

By Melissa Locker, TIME 04/18/16 4:02 AM [video clip]

“There is no safe level of lead,” said John Oliver on Last Week Tonight. “It’s one of those things so dangerous you shouldn’t even let a little bit of it inside you—much like heroin or Jeremy Piven.” While the “horrific events” in Flint, Michigan have been in the news a lot over the last year, as Oliver noted, the problem extends far beyond the borders of Michigan. To illustrate his point, he highlighted a USA Today Network report that revealed lead contamination in almost 2,000 water systems across the 50 states.

## John Oliver goes to Sesame Street to shame Congress on lead poisoning

By The Week 04/18/16 3:21 AM [video clip]

Lead is “the most dangerous thing in Led Zeppelin’s name,” John Oliver said on Sunday’s Last Week Tonight, “and I will remind you, the other thing was Zeppelin.” Lead poisoning has been in the news because of the tainted water in Flint, Michigan, Oliver said, and everybody in Congress agrees the poisoning of children in Flint is a travesty. “So we all care about lead in Flint now, which is great,” he said. “Unfortunately, the problem is not just in Flint.” A USA Today report found excessive lead in nearly 2,000 water systems spread across all 50 states, Oliver noted, and there is no easy or even medium-hard fix.

## John Oliver Blasts GOP Over Lead Poisoning Our Children

By Marlow Stern, Daily Beast 04/18/16 12:13 AM [video clip]

“We’ve heard a lot about lead over the past year due to the horrific events in Flint, Michigan,” said John Oliver, leading off his main segment on Last Week Tonight. Indeed, the crisis in Flint has been declared a federal emergency, with experts claiming that roughly 8,000 to 9,000 kids under age 6 may have suffered permanent brain damage after they were exposed to high levels of lead in the city’s water. Oliver then threw to clips of Rep. Mark Meadows (R-NC), Rep. Tim Walberg (R-MI), and Rep. Jason Chaffetz (R-UT), the Oversight & Government Reform Committee chair, decrying the lack of action in Flint in Congress.

## WATCH: John Oliver Breaks Down Flint And The Danger Of Lead Like Only John Oliver Can

By Daily Detroit 04/18/16 [video clip]

With a little help from his friends on Sesame Street, HBO's weekly TV show, "Last Week Tonight with John Oliver" spent nearly 20 minutes dissecting the Flint lead situation, as well as America's lead problem, in his signature style of part comedy and part explainer. He breaks it down that it's not just lead pipes – but more than 2.1 million U.S. homes have lead dust and children under 6. But, until now, there hasn't been much desire to take action.

## Michigan water quality regulator involved in Flint crisis takes new job

AP for MLIVE 04/18/16 2:06 PM

A Michigan water-quality official who told the city of Flint that a chemical wasn't needed to prevent lead corrosion from pipes has taken a different job in the state Department of Environmental Quality. Mike Prysby, who was a district engineer with the Office of Drinking Water and Municipal Assistance and had been responsible for Genesee County, home to Flint, began working in the Water Resources Division's Transportation and Flood Hazard Unit on March 28. That was the day before a supervisor at Flint's water plant, Mike Glasgow, testified at a legislative hearing that Prysby told him before Flint switched to a local river for water in 2014 that phosphate wasn't required.

## After Flint, DEQ drinking water official takes new job

By Paul Egan, Detroit Free Press 04/18/16 1:58 PM

A key figure in the Flint drinking water crisis has left the division of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality responsible for drinking water safety, officials confirmed. Mike Prysby, who was an engineer in the Lansing district of the DEQ's Office of Drinking Water and Municipal Assistance, has transferred to the transportation and flood hazard unit of the water resources division, DEQ spokeswoman Melanie Brown told the Free Press.

## Worker's future in question due to Flint water crisis

By Crossroads Today 04/18/16 12:01 PM

A state DEQ worker's future is in question due to his role in the Flint Water Crisis. According to the Detroit News, DEQ Supervisor, Stephen Busch, is the only civil servant known to be under investigation for the crisis. He's been on paid leave since February 1. Emails released by the state reveal Busch warned about potential problems with Flint's water system before it was connected to the Flint River.

#### DEQ director to speak about dioxane plume at town hall tonight

By Rebecca Williams, Michigan Radio 04/18/16 6:00 AM

State Representative Jeff Irwin, D-Ann Arbor, will host a town hall this evening to talk about the Pall-Gelman dioxane plume. The plume of 1, 4-dioxane has contaminated three square miles of groundwater under the city of Ann Arbor. The EPA says the solvent is likely to cause cancer.

#### State rules delay judgment on key DEQ official

By Jim Lynch & Jonathan Oosting, Detroit News 04/18/16 12:08 AM

A state environmental official has been on paid leave for 2 1/2 months pending an investigation even though Gov. Rick Snyder promised Congress a crackdown on state "career bureaucrats" involved in one of the biggest public health disasters in Michigan's history. In response to Flint's lead-contaminated water crisis, state Department of Environmental Quality Director Dan Wyant and department spokesman Brad Wurfel resigned in late December. On, Feb. 5, Snyder announced the dismissal of Liane Shekter Smith, an appointee and former head of the DEQ's Office of Drinking Water and Municipal Assistance.

#### Gov. Snyder promises to drink Flint tap water for 30 days

By Jiquanda Johnson, MLIVE 04/18/16 5:45 PM

Gov. Rick Snyder says he will drink Flint water for the next 30 days. He made the promise while visiting a home in Flint's college area Monday to talk to homeowners about the Flint water crisis and to see if their water filters were working. "I'm going to start drinking this at home and work," Snyder said of gallons of water his team collected from the home. "I'm going to be drinking Flint water for the next 30 days or so."

### Democrats look to block spending on Snyder attorneys

By Rick Pluta, Michigan Radio 04/18/16 5:40 PM

Democrats in the Legislature say they'll try to stop the state from spending taxpayer dollars on Governor Rick Snyder's criminal defense team. State Rep. Sam Singh, D-East Lansing, says the state is responsible for defending the governor against civil lawsuits. But he says the governor should pick up the costs of his own criminal

### Snyder says he will drink Flint water for next 30 days

By Paul Egan, Detroit Free Press 04/18/16 5:36 PM

Gov. Rick Snyder said he visited a Flint home on Monday and drank filtered water out of the family's kitchen tap, adding that he plans to continue drinking filtered Flint tap water for the next 30 days to show it is safe. Snyder told reporters in Flint that he filled three gallon jugs with the water. "I'm going to start drinking that tonight and do it for the next 30 days," Snyder said.

### Michigan governor to drink Flint water for at least a month

By AP for Washington Post 04/18/16 5:13 PM

Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder will drink Flint water at home and at work for at least a month to show to residents it is safe with the use of a faucet filter, he said Monday. The Republican governor, who has apologized for his administration's role in the city's lead-tainted water crisis, visited a house that had been confirmed to have high levels of lead and left with five gallons of filtered water. He said he understands people feel that if officials say the water is OK, then he should drink it, too.

### Michigan Governor to Drink Flint Water for at Least a Month

David Eggert AP for ABC News 04/18/16 5:09 PM

Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder will drink Flint water at home and at work for at least a month to show to residents it is safe with the use of a faucet filter, he said Monday. The Republican governor, who has apologized for his administration's role in the city's lead-tainted water crisis, visited a house that had been confirmed to have high levels of lead and left with five gallons of filtered water. He said he understands people feel that if officials say the water is OK, then he



should drink it, too.

#### Snyder pledges to drink Flint water for month to show it is safe

By FOX 2 Detroit 04/18/16 5:03 PM

Gov. Rick Snyder spent time Monday visiting a home that has recently tested high for lead levels through the state's sentinel site testing program. According to a press release, he spoke with the resident about their water, the use of filters and drank filtered water with them to help show the water is safe.

#### Snyder to drink Flint water for month

By Jacob Carah, Detroit News 04/18/16 4:52 PM

Bottoms up for Gov. Rick Snyder. The governor announced Monday for the next 30 days, he'll drink filtered tap water drawn from the city. "I completely understand why some Flint residents are hesitant to drink the water and I am hopeful I can alleviate some of the skepticism and mistrust by putting words to action," Snyder said in a statement.

#### Hundreds of anti-Rick Snyder messages chalked outside of governor's downtown Ann Arbor condo

By Matt Durr, MLIVE 04/18/16 4:08 PM

Hundreds of messages written in chalk littered the sidewalks in downtown Ann Arbor surrounding Gov. Rick Snyder's condo as residents continue to express their anger over the Flint Water Crisis. Messages ranged from calling for Snyder's resignation to demands that he release emails to claims that he knew of the issue and failed to react properly.

#### Michiganders giving Gov. Snyder lower job performance rating

By Steve Carmody, Michigan Radio 04/18/16 12:20 PM

A Michigan State University pollster says new survey numbers suggest Governor Snyder has suffered "some permanent" damage from the Flint water crisis. MSU's State of the State Survey polled nearly 1,000 people between December and March, during the height of the crisis. Survey director Charles Ballard says the percentage of people rating Snyder's job performance as "poor"

more than doubled, from 21% to 44%.

### Racketeering Suit Filed Against Snyder in Flint Water Crisis

By staff The Daily Chappaqua 04/18/16

The suit alleges that Snyder “formulated an intentional overarching RICO scheme based on Flint’s run of the mill fiscal problems in order to balance the books of the City of Flint by collecting \$50 million dollars for water bills for toxic water from the free Flint River water source”. They look like they’re executing flawlessly in their plan. “Governor Snyder avoids the headache of Flint going bankrupt”. “As a result of the acts of Governor Snyder and his staff, the emergency managers, MDEQ, and MDHHS, unthinkable harm has been inflicted on the residents of Flint“, the suit said.

### Gov. Rick Snyder's approval rating plummets after Flint water crisis

By Emily Lawler, MLIVE 04/18/16 11:18 AM

Gov. Rick Snyder posted the worst approval ratings of his political career in wake of the Flint water crisis, according to Michigan State University's latest State of the State Survey. The city of Flint switched water sources under state-appointed emergency manager in 2014. The new water, without treatment, leached lead into the pipes and the city's drinking water supply. An unknown number of children were exposed to the toxin.

### Gov. Snyder to drink Flint water for month

By FOX 17 West Michigan 04/18/16

Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder says he will drink Flint’s water for roughly a month to show residents it is safe. The Republican governor visited a house that had been confirmed to have high levels of lead and left with five gallons of water from a tap with a filter on it.

## **Blighted Homes & Fraud**

### Blighted homes, demolition are the result of fraud in Flint

By FOX 28 04/18/16 11:50 AM

A newspaper reports that more than a dozen blighted homes in Flint tied to a scam by a California man have been demolished and more could meet the wrecking ball. The Flint Journal (<http://bit.ly/1NiQ4gI>) says William Yotty is in prison, but the city and Genesee County still must deal with the consequences. Yotty promised fat returns for investors by buying and flipping homes during the Great Recession. But the properties sometimes were worthless or burdened with unpaid taxes.

#### How a Ponzi scheme used Flint homes to fleece \$15M from realty investors

By Gary Ridley, MLIVE 04/18/16 8:57 AM

The house at 4808 Miami Lane is an eyesore. Beige stalactites hang from the house's kitchen ceiling as paint slowly peels from the drywall. The decaying remains of an unknown animal – most likely some sort of large varmint – lies mixed with garbage and building scraps where a dining room table possibly once was. The small ranch-style house in the Manley Village neighborhood on Flint's northwest side was once a home. Today, it is nothing more than a depository for dumpers after the home and 20 houses like it in and around the city were left to rot following a multimillion-dollar Ponzi scheme that preyed on Flint properties.

### **Other News & Opinions**

#### To The Point: Rep. Irwin on the Flint water crisis

By WOOD NBC TV 8 04/17/16 3:37 PM

There will be no quick fix to the crisis of lead contamination in Flint's water, but one state representative has some ideas on how to start right now. Michigan Rep. Jeff Irwin, D-Ann Arbor, sits on the special joint committee of the state House of Representatives and Senate investigating what led up to the Flint water crisis and determining the state's next steps.

#### LEGAL HURDLES EXIST FOR FLINT RESIDENTS DESPITE TAINTED WATER

By Reuters for Newsweek 04/18/16 3:31 PM

Luke Waid drives 20 miles each day to shower at a relative's place, hauls bottled water back to his Flint, Michigan, home and worries about his 2-year-old daughter's irritability. "I don't know if that is a product of her being exposed to high lead levels, or her just being a child," he said. "I'm not sure." That uncertainty also presents a challenge to the lawyers who have enlisted as many as 1,800 residents, including Waid, as plaintiffs in lawsuits over contamination in the Flint's water supply.

### Proving lead damage from Flint water could be stiff challenge for families and lawyers

By Reuters 04/18/16 6:43 AM

Luke Waid drives 20 miles each day to shower at a relative's place, hauls bottled water back to his Flint, Michigan, home and worries about his 2-year-old daughter's irritability. "I don't know if that is a product of her being exposed to high lead levels, or her just being a child," he said. "I'm not sure."

### Flint: A Pastor's Testimony

By Gerald Cardwell, Sojourners 04/18/16

I first noticed there was a problem in November 2013 when I started experiencing dry and cracked skin from washing with the water in Flint, Mich. — water we discovered later was contaminated with high levels of TTHM (Trihalomethanes) and chlorine. My wife and I live in the Detroit area, but I stay overnight in Flint as many as three nights a week in the parsonage of Quinn Chapel, the oldest African-American church in Flint and in the Genesee County of Michigan, which has been at the forefront of protests and community activism surrounding the ongoing water crisis.

### If Michigan changed its lead drinking water standard, some cities would be out of compliance

By Lindsey Smith, Michigan Radio 04/18/16 10:00 AM

Governor Rick Snyder is backing tougher standards for lead in drinking water. Cities are still figuring out what any proposed changes to drinking water regulations would mean for them. If lawmakers were to enact the changes, it would make Michigan's standard the toughest in the country. If the "action level" standard for lead in water was lowered from 15 parts per billion to 10 ppb, the change could put some cities, like Kalamazoo, over the allowable limit.

### Flint researchers will be Virginia Tech's spring commencement speakers

By Robby Korth, Roanoke Times 04/18/16 8:41 AM

A pair of professors who led the work exposing a water crisis in Flint, Michigan will be the speakers at Virginia Tech's spring graduation, May 13 beginning at 8:30 a.m. Marc Edwards, a

Virginia Tech engineering professor, and Mona Hanna-Attisha, a pediatrics professor at Michigan State University College of Human Medicine and doctor at a Flint hospital, will give speeches for the spring commencement at Lane Stadium. The pair are credited with leading the charge in raising awareness of elevated lead levels in the Michigan city's water.

#### Davison student journalists broadcast loud and clear

By Maureen Feighan, Detroit News 04/18/16 7:32 AM

DTV's news special on the Flint water crisis, "Undrinkable," a 26-minute documentary the student staff wrote, filmed and edited, went viral after it was released in January and has more than 126,000 views on YouTube. It recently won Best of Show at the 48th annual Michigan Student Film Festival and another award at the Water Docs Film Festival in Toronto. Filmmaker and Flint native Michael Moore even plugged it on Twitter.

## **AID**

#### Social Workers Continue Boots-on-Ground Work in Flint

By Public News Service 04/18/16

The national spotlight on Flint may have dimmed, but the city's water crisis is far from over. And that's why social workers in Michigan are continuing their boots-on-the-ground work to assist residents. Allan Wachendorfer, director of public policy with the Michigan chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW), explains that the lead in the water has caused extensive infrastructure damage and human injury, along with social and personal disruption.

#### The Branson Centre solution helping those affected by the Flint water crisis

Essita Duncan, VIRGIN 04/18/16

I was recently in Jamaica, where I met Jovan Evans, the inventor of the Pump-n-Spray – a domestic water dispenser that efficiently uses water and reduces waste. It dawned on me when I returned home from Jamaica that the residents dealing with the water crisis in Flint, Michigan, could benefit from this simple, yet incredibly useful invention.

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